



# Broadsound Shire LGA Profile

December 2007

Broadsound Shire is a desirable location for both tourists and residents, offering relaxed, coastal living opportunities, access to a range of recreational and national park activities (such as fishing, swimming, hiking and other outdoor recreation), and diverse cultural and historical places of interest.

The major localities include the coastal towns of Carmila and St Lawrence and the inland towns of Middlemount and Dysart. The coastal region is separated from the western localities by the Connors Range.

The traditional economic base of Broadsound Shire has been in sugar, beef, agriculture, and mining. A number of other activities, such as aquaculture, fruit and vegetable growing, and goat farming have been more recently established or are under development in the region.

Aside from rural industries, employment in the western localities is largely associated with the coal industry, while coastal areas of the Shire depend on service industries for a large portion of employment opportunities.

Broadsound Shire amalgamated with Belyando and Nebo Shires on 17 March 2008 following the local government election to form the Isaac Regional Council.

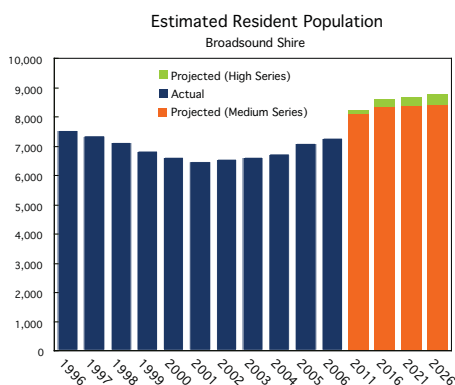


## Population

There were an estimated 7,311 persons in Broadsound Shire in 2006, 2.6% more than in 2005. Broadsound accounted for 4.6% of the Mackay Whitsunday Region's population in 2006.

Between 2006 and 2026, the population of Broadsound Shire is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.7% to 8,452 persons by 2026. This translates to an extra 57 persons in Broadsound each year between 2006 and 2026.

However, if current high growth experienced by the Mackay Whitsunday Region continues over the next 20 years, Broadsound is expected to experience a higher growth rate of 0.9% per annum to 8,807 persons by 2026.



Source: ABS 3218.0, QDLGP Population Projections 2006, AECgroup

## Employment

Broadsound Shire recorded a trend labour force of 4,193 persons in the September Quarter 2007, a 1.5% increase from the September Quarter 2006. Trend employment of 4,164 persons also represented an annual increase since the September Quarter 2006 (up 1.9%), while trend unemployed persons (29 persons) declined significantly over the same period (down 33.2%).

The increase in employment and decline in unemployment is likely a product, in part, of the expansive mining and development projects that are underway in the region.

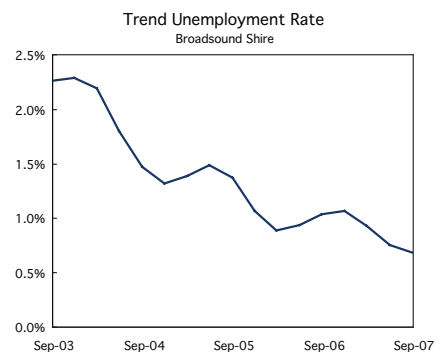
### Trend Employment Indicators, Broadsound Shire

	Sep Qtr 2007	% Change on Sep Qtr 2006
Labour Force (no.)	4,193	1.5%
Employed (no.)	4,164	1.9%
Unemployed (no.)	29	-33.2%
Unemployment Rate (%) <sup>(a)</sup>	0.7%	-0.3%

Note: This data is derived through trending the unsmoothed series from DEWR, thus the trend labour force does not necessarily equal trend employed persons plus trend unemployed persons. (a) The change in the unemployment rate is in percentage point terms.

Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

Broadsound Shire's trend unemployment rate decreased in annual terms in the September Quarter 2007 by 0.3 percentage points to 0.7%, the lowest unemployment rate recorded in the Shire in over four years.



Source: DEWR Small Area Labour Market Surveys, AECgroup

## Housing

There were 27 residential building approvals in the 2007 calendar year, 42.6% less than the number recorded in 2006. A 63.8% decline in the number of new house approvals was the main contributor to the overall contraction.

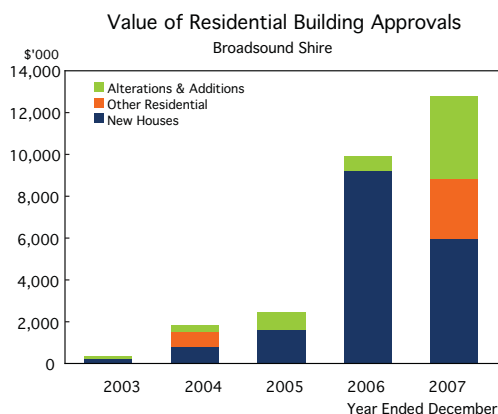
## Building Approvals, Broadsound Shire

	Year Ended DEC 07	% Change on Year Ended DEC 06
<i>Number</i>		
New Houses	17	-63.8%
Other Dwellings	10	n.a.
<b>Total Residential</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-42.6%</b>
<i>Value (\$'000)</i>		
New Houses	5,998	-35.1%
Other Dwellings	2,860	n.a.
Alterations & Additions <sup>(a)</sup>	3,998	464.9%
<b>Total Residential</b>	<b>12,846</b>	<b>29.1%</b>
Non-Residential	26,102	86.3%
<b>Total Building</b>	<b>39,948</b>	<b>62.5%</b>

Note: Other dwellings includes flats, units and apartments. (a) The significant growth in the value of approvals for alterations and additions in 2007 is attributable to the low value recorded for 2006 of \$706,000.

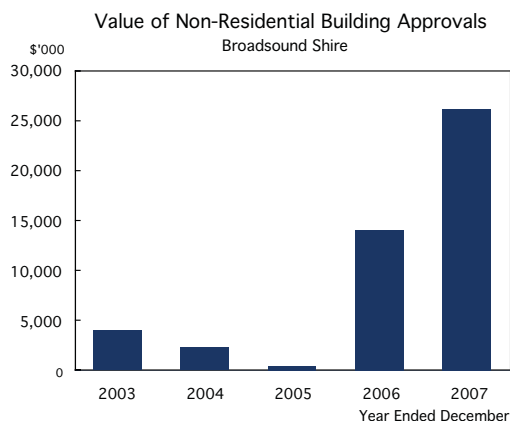
Source: ABS 8731.0

Broadsound Shire recorded a total value of residential building approvals of \$12.8 million in 2007, 29.1% more than in 2006.



Source: ABS 8731.0

The value of non-residential building approvals also increased significantly between 2006 and 2007, by 86.3% to \$26.1 million. Since 2003, the value of non-residential building approvals has increased by over six times.



Source: ABS 8731.0

## Industry

Broadsound has a unique variety of established industries, ranging from mining to agriculture, and more recently, tourism. Traditionally, the inland localities of Dysart and Middlemount have been associated with coal production and mining, whereas the rural areas, particularly near the coast, have specialised in broad acre farming, beef cattle, sugar cane farming, and cotton production. In recent times agricultural endeavours have expanded to include an assortment of industries from goat farming, to banana growing, fishing, forestry, and aquaculture.

**Coal** - Coal mining is an important industry in Broadsound Shire, with coal mines including Foxleigh, German Creek Central, German Creek East, German Creek Southern, Norwich Park and Saraji. In recent years, coal mines in Broadsound Shire have contributed approximately 20% of total saleable coal production in the Mackay SD.

**Agriculture** - Agriculture is the most significant industry in Broadsound, with beef, sugar and grain serving as its major contributors.

In 2001, Broadsound traded approximately 234,000 head of cattle for meat production, and an estimated 1.4 million tonnes of sugar cane were crushed at the Plane Creek Mill. Additionally, approximately 175,000 tonnes of grain were produced for the region at this time.

## Major Projects

Approximately \$950 million in major developments are currently under construction in Broadsound Shire. In addition to these committed projects, there are approximately \$2.0 billion in developments currently under study.

The following are some of the major committed developments in Broadsound:

**Lake Lindsay Coal Project** - Anglo Coal and Mitsui Coal Holdings have joined as the proponents of this \$674 million project, which is currently under construction to provide a new open-cut mine for the production of 4Mt of saleable metallurgical and thermal coal for export purposes per annum.

**Vermont Coal Project** - Construction has recently begun on this \$176 million development project, which will include a new open-cut mine capable of producing approximately 4Mt per annum of coal from the Rangal Coal Measures. Coking and PCI coals will be produced for export purposes.

## For More Information

### Isaac Regional Council

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